

MEN IN HIGH PLACES.

President's Private Secretaries Paul and Fife.

Introducer of Newspaper as Lawyer Chase Before Old Time Quakers—"Peppe-
we" and Tyler in the White House.

New York Mail and Express.

The recent announcement that Harrison has selected Elijah W. Hoffman, managing editor of the Indianapolis Journal, as his private secretary, suggests the name of the man who will become an unusual figure for the president-to-be to choose his right-hand man from the journalistic ranks. Within the past few years newspapermen have become more and more concerned with the actual life of the nation; each year an increasing number are appointed to positions where their knowledge of men and affairs make them serviceable to the president. But in Paul and Fife Cleveland I believe, who first took a look at the White house as his private and confidential secretary, Colonel Hay and Colonel Lamont had a newspaper training, given them by men in close contact with Lincoln that Colonel Lamont brought to Cleveland. They were attachées of the White house, but hardly confidential secretaries.

Cleveland appears to have made his personal choice of sub-president. And it is the general impression that Colonel Lamont has shown that the post of private secretary to the president is something more than that. It was formerly the case, and when relations of intimacy and confidence existed between the chief magistrate and his secretary, that the position was of little responsibility. Now that the possibilities of the position have been shown to be men who have been bred in law. Of the different men who filled the presidency before Lincoln's term, for the most part, were lawyers, and all of them were selected because they had been educated for the law.

The law lawyer to hold this position of the wife's house was the private secretary to Hayes, Williams, and his son. Hayes had a good knowledge of law, and was a man of scholarly attainments, but he had not been successful. He did not seem fitted to handle with their wives, and he did not seem to have been a man in a merchant, but a lawyer venture was against him.

Harrison entered the White house as private secretary to his father, a broad-shouldered lawyer, who was a member of the cabinet, and a valuable member of the government. The elements in themselves suggest the fallacy. There was no trace of political education. Instead of looking for the standard of the law, he had looked for the standard of a man seated in a leather armchair, eager to sit away from routine letter writing to practice "Baxter's Sain's Rest." He was no aid to the president. He had no comprehension of the law, and he did not seem to be able to call at the White house in the morning, remain a short time with the mail, and then retire for the day to his home. There was no friction between the two.

Mr. Hayes appeared to think that method of official conduct was all right. Mrs. Hayes was a lively dispenser, and cared more for the society of the executive mansion. Even her husband did not seem to have been drawn from the unique qualifications of that peculiar "four years" term.

Thirty years ago the president usually selected his secretary from his own family. Thus, the case of Wilson. His son, the great historian, was a valuable member of the cabinet, during the brief reign of administration.

The public secretary of "Old Tippecanoe," during the brief reign of administration before "Tyler, too," succeeded to the presidency, was John Henry Harrison, the grand nephew of the president. He was a nephew of General Harrison of Berkeley, a nephew of General William Henry Harrison.

The blood of a signer of the Declaration flowed in his veins. He was a classmate at college with John Taylor, Bright, and others, and held a confidential position. In fact, the Tyler, Monroes and Harrisons were all intermarried. Mr. Tyler brought his son with him to be his secretary, when he became vice-president, and when he became president, when young Harrison, who was then in the rich Plate district of Nebraska, But he held it only about one year. His uncle died in Sussex county, Virginia, and left him his entire estate, which he subsequently dropped into the hands of John and Henry Morris. This easy condition was accepted, and thenceforward Henry Harrison led an eventful life a Virginian farmer until his death some years after the white house.

Before Harrison entered the White house Van Buren had established the family qualification for the secretaryship.

If one consults the several journals or the "Globe" of that time, it will be found that messages from the president were received at the hands of Mr. A. Van Buren, Mr. Van Buren, Major Van Buren, and so on. These were the personal agents and relatives of the private secretary during the four years he was held by the cabinet. Major Abraham Van Buren, whose career is interesting.

Abram Van Buren, the first-born son of President Martin Van Buren, came into the world at Kinderhook, N. Y., November 27, 1807. His early education was acquired at Greenbush Academy. Then he entered the military academy at West Point, and graduated ninth in his class. He was an aide-de-camp upon the staff of General Scott during the Mexican War.

He was detailed by the secretary of war to the commandant of the U. S. Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas, and remained there until the fall of 1847, when he was promoted to the rank of captain.

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